


Maidenhead Education Committee.

With the Compliments

..... of the

School Medical Officer.

Guildhall,
Maidenhead.



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Maidenhead
Education Committee.



**MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL
CHILDREN.**



TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF
School Medical Officer
1919.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
MAIDENHEAD EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I present herewith the 12th Annual Report of the School Medical Officer for the year ended 31st December, 1919.

During the past year the School Medical Service has extended itself in many directions, more particularly in the development of the Clinics, and in the number of Children treated for minor ailments. This additional work could not have possibly been undertaken in the premises previously occupied by the School Medical Department, and the inconvenience experienced in 1918 while the new premises were being put into order, caused a considerable amount of arrears which have now been overtaken. The number of children examined in the course of Routine Inspections at School is much larger than in the previous year when, it will be remembered, it was found impossible to carry out the inspections owing to the prolonged closure of schools on account of Influenza and similar ailments,

Routine Inspections. Three groups of children have been examined at School, namely : Entrants, Leavers and the Intermediate group of 8 years of age ; the number examined in the various groups during 1919 are :—

Entrants	...	397
Leavers	...	228
Intermediates	...	292

The higher proportion of Entrants is accounted for by the fact that a large number of them, approximately 100, missed inspection at the proper time owing to the Infants Schools being closed. In addition to the 917 scholars examined in these Groups, there was also 49 special cases examined at the request of the Teachers and 126 re-examinations.

Defects. Amongst the 917 children examined in the “Code” groups, 288 hygienic defects were noted, that is to say, some part of the body was dirty, showed signs of vermin, or otherwise not reasonably clean ; or the clothing or footwear was in a dilapidated condition, or again a scholar might present a combination of two or more of these defects. The physical defects amounted to 572, decayed teeth and enlarged tonsils accounting for the majority.

Nutrition. On the whole, the School children are not badly nourished in spite of War conditions, dearness of food and other drawbacks. Compared with previous years, a smaller proportion than usual were marked as poor, namely : nine, or just under 1%, and there were 83 distinctly below the general average.

Clothing. Here again, there is a decided improvement on the whole. Although the children of certain families are

constantly in a ragged and dirty condition, the average child is better clothed and has better footwear than in pre-War years. Only five presented themselves at inspection in dirty and ragged clothing ; none were deficient in quantity, and 74 had boots or shoes which would not sufficiently protect the feet from wet.

Personal Cleanliness. There still remains a good deal to be done before the Schools are really freed from vermin affecting the head. Very bad cases are not so frequent as they used to be and the fact that only 7 boys out of 469, and 2 girls out of 448 had live vermin, does not indicate a serious state of affairs, but 114 boys and 135 girls showed the presence of nits, which is a clear indication that even though actual vermin were not visible at the time of inspection, they had been so affected recently. A reasonable standard of cleanliness in this respect can only be maintained by constant vigilance on the part of teachers and frequent individual inspections by the School nurse.

Teeth. It is sufficient to remark here that just one-third of the children examined had four or more teeth decayed ; this shows that dental treatment, particularly conservative treatment, is urgently required.

Throat and Nose. Obstruction of the breathing passages is now more frequently attended to than formerly. It is satisfactory to note that out of the nine hundred odd scholars examined, in 40 cases the enlarged tonsils had already been removed, and in 32 the adenoids had been removed as well. In 47 cases a printed notice was given to the parent stating that surgical treatment was required, and all but six of these received appropriate treatment in the course of the year.

External Eye Disease. Twenty cases of Blepharitis and two cases of Conjunctivitis, were noted, the majority of the former being subsequently treated at the Minor Ailments Clinic.

Eyesight. The following table indicates the result of the usual test by reading Snellen's types at the standard distance :

	6/6	6/9	6/12	6/18	6/24	6/36	6/60
Right eye	449	38	13	10	8	5	1
Left eye	439	37	17	15	9	5	2

In addition to the above, there were 19 cases of squint and 18 children were wearing glasses at the time of inspection. Treatment of the cases of defective eyesight is dealt with in the paragraph relating to the Eye Clinic.

Ear Disease and Deafness. In three cases discharge was noted from the right ear, and two from the left ear. Four of these were referred for treatment, and at the end of the year, one was cured, and three improved. Fourteen cases of deafness were noted in one or both ears, that is to say, a whisper could only be heard at half the usual distance. In six of them, deafness was undoubtedly associated with enlarged tonsils and adenoids. Four of the remaining eight were recommended for treatment, two of which were distinctly improved, and two remained unchanged at the end of the year.

Speech. The defects noted were as follows :

"Thick" speech due generally to enlarged tonsils	9
Indistinct utterance	6
Lisp	3
Stutter	4

Those of the first group were recommended to have tonsils and adenoids removed, and those in the other three groups

were referred to their respective teachers for special attention in class.

Mental Condition. Judged according to age and position in School, 24 scholars were marked as mentally dull, their mental attainments being at least 2 years behind that of a normal child at the same age ; and one scholar was found to be mentally defective. At present no special treatment is available for dull and backward children, and so long as their behaviour is not detrimental to class work, they are allowed to remain at school. It cannot be denied that the presence of one or two of these backward children in a class acts as an appreciable drag on the others. If they are specially attended to by the teacher, it means so much loss of attention to the normal scholars. If no special attention is given to them, their attendance at School hardly counts for anything in the way of education. It is therefore worth while considering the possibility of forming a special class for backward children at one or two of the larger Schools in the Town ; the Class being conducted by a teacher who has had experience with backward children.

Affections of the Heart. Nine cases of disorder of the Heart were noted, three of them being of a functional nature and not requiring immediate treatment. Two of the other six were referred to their family Doctor for treatment ; the remaining four being cases which had been noted at previous inspections and had been under the care of the family doctor. Their condition presented no change.

Affections of the Lungs. In twenty-seven cases, abnormal conditions of the lungs were noted ; 7 of these were definitely Tuberculous, 10 suspected, 6 suffered from chronic bronchitis and 3 presented other but indefinite

symptoms. Twelve of these cases had not previously received medical attention, and were referred to the County Tuberculosis Officer for further examination and treatment where required.

The following are the other defects noted during inspection :

One case of each of the following : Haemophilia (bleeder), Chorea, Club-foot, Cripple (left leg), Hydrocephalus, Impetigo, Infantile paralysis, Ringworm of Skin, Rupture, Scabies, Septic Finger, Scaly skin (Ichthyosis), and Worms. Two cases of each of the following : Anaemia, broken Collar Bone, " Fits." Also three cases of Enuresis (weak bladder), three cases of Ringworm of scalp, five in which evidence of rickets was observed, and four where the children were very emotional.

School Nurse In addition to the assistance given at the various Clinics and at Routine Inspections, the School Nurse paid 20 surprise visits to the schools for the purpose of examining the scholars for personal cleanliness. In the course of these inspections she examined 2,045 children. For the purpose of following up scholars who required treatment or whose parents had neglected to obtain treatment, 208 visits were paid by her to the homes, and 18 school sessions were spent in re-examining children at school. In addition to this, 45 visits were paid to schools in connection with the medical inspections and 27 sessions were spent in actual assistance at these inspections.

TREATMENT.

(1) **Minor Ailments Clinic** Formerly this Clinic was held on Friday mornings only, but special and urgent cases were occasionally seen by the School Medical Officer or

the School Nurse on other days as well. The work however, has increased so much of late, that it is impossible to attend to all the children at one session, and an attempt to confine them to two mornings, namely: Wednesdays and Fridays, likewise proved un-successful, so that although these two days remain the chief for attending to Minor Ailments, practically every morning there are from 10 to 20 or more children in attendance. No less than 710 children made 3,108 attendances at this Clinic during the year 1919. The illnesses principally dealt with and the results of treatment are shown in the following table :

Cases treated at Minor Ailments Clinic.

Ailment.		Carried on from 1918.	New cases during 1919	Total cases dealt with in 1919.	RESULTS.		
					Remedied	Improved	Unchan- ged
Alopecia	...	—	3	3	—	—	3
Chicken Pox	...	—	7	7	7	—	—
Chorea	...	—	1	1	—	1	—
Deafness	...	—	4	4	2	—	2
Debility	...	1	13	14	12	2	—
Discharging Ears	...	7	8	15	8	2	5
Deformities	...	2	1	3	—	—	3
External Eye Disease	...	6	14	20	11	9	—
Eneuresis	...	1	1	2	—	1	1
Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids	...	—	16	16	16	—	—
Glands	...	—	11	11	9	2	—
Impetigo and Sores	...	6	128	134	124	10	—
Injuries	...	1	34	35	35	—	—
Infantile Paralysis	...	—	1	1	—	—	1
Mentally Deficient	...	—	2	2	—	—	2
Nasal obstruction	...	—	3	3	3	—	—
Psoriasis	...	—	3	3	—	—	3
Ringworm of Scalp	...	9	12	21	14	7	—
Ringworm of Skin	...	2	7	9	9	—	—
Scabies	...	15	58	73	65	8	—
Seborrhoea	...	—	1	1	—	1	—
Septic Throat	...	—	11	11	11	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	—	2	2	2	—	—
Tuberculosis	...	3	7	10	1	9	—
Venereal Disease	...	—	3	3	3	—	—
Verminous Head	...	2	55	57	56	1	—
Whooping Cough	...	—	1	1	1	—	—
Total	...	55	407	462	389	53	20

(2) Dental Clinic This Clinic was open on 21 occasions during the year 1919, and a total of 131 cases, comprising 60 boys and 71 girls, were dealt with. This is the first full year in which this Clinic has been in operation, and it was considered advisable for the first year at all events, to deal only with casual cases, that is to say, cases noted at the Routine Inspections for very bad conditions of the mouth, cases sent up by parents, school teachers or the School Attendance Officer on account of toothache, gumboils, and septic conditions of the mouth generally, causing absence from school. The treatment thus afforded has been greatly appreciated, and will undoubtedly pave the way for the larger scheme of conservative treatment outlined in Sir George Newman's Report to the Board of Education for 1916. This scheme which includes systematic inspection of the teeth of scholars of 7 to 9 years of age at school by the School Dentist, will be inaugurated early in 1920.

The following is a summary of the work done at this Clinic :

BOYS.	Temporary teeth	extracted (maximum number 10)	...	37
	Permanent teeth	„ („ „ 4)	...	12
	Temporary & Permanent	„ („ „ 15)	...	8
GIRLS.	Temporary teeth	extracted (maximum number 12)	...	45
	Permanent teeth	„ („ „ 4)	...	16
	Temporary & Permanent	„ („ „ 8)	...	9

A local anæsthetic was given in 94 cases, namely : 45 boys and 49 girls. Nitrous-oxide gas was given in 1 case, and in 32 cases (12 boys, 20 girls) no anæsthetic was necessary. In addition, dental operations in connection with the following conditions were performed :

Sinuses and septic roots	...	...	19
Regulation of teeth	...	...	8
Removal of loose pieces	...	...	8
Treatment for hypoplastic teeth	...	...	3
Scaling	...	...	2
Filling	...	...	1
Dressing	...	...	1
Treatment for irregular teeth due to cleft palate	...	...	1
Injury	...	...	2

The total number of attendances made at the Dental Clinic was 173.

(3) Eye Clinic The Eye Clinic was opened on 12 occasions during the year, when 90 children passed through the hands of the Oculist, five being carried over from the previous year. The majority of these were cases of defective vision, due to errors of refraction for which appropriate glasses were prescribed. Severe cases of external eye disease were referred to him for advise as to treatment; the treatment being carried out at the minor ailments clinic. At present it cannot be said that the Eye Clinic is as successful as it might be. In the first place, several of the children after having had their eyes atropinised and prepared for examination in the dark room, failed to turn up at the appointed time, in spite of the efforts of the School Nurse to secure their attendance. Secondly, an undue proportion of children either failed to obtain spectacles prescribed, or having obtained them, leave off wearing them within a short time. Thirdly, when glasses are broken or require renewal, many parents neglect to have these matters attended to, although on a visit from the School Nurse, they profess their intention of seeing the matter forthwith. The only remedy is for a more frequent following up of these cases by the School Nurse both at home, and at school to see that the glasses are actually being worn but this would require a much greater proportion of the School Nurse's time, than she can at present afford, without neglect of her other duties, it being remembered that half of her time should be devoted to Infant Welfare work.

By an arrangement with a local optician, glasses prescribed at the Clinic are supplied at a special price and

there are also special terms offered for repairs and alterations. In all cases where the parents are unable to afford the whole or any part of the cost, the Local Education Authority pay the deficiency, so that any hardship that might result to the children on account of inability to pay is obviated.

4) Other provisions for treatment Since the treatment scheme for affections of the nose, throat and ear was discontinued at the Cottage Hospital on account of War conditions, practically all the cases requiring operative treatment of this nature have been dealt with at the Ray Mead Childrens' Hospital. This, a private institution, has always afforded every facility for the reception of school cases. Between 40 and 50 cases of this nature have been dealt with by this Institution during the past year, and although it is expected that the previous arrangement with the Cottage Hospital will be revived in 1920, the popularity of Ray Mead Hospital has become so firmly established, that undoubtedly, the majority of parents whose children are qualified for admission, will prefer to take them there.

It is satisfactory to note that the symptoms of obstruction to breathing caused by enlarged tonsils and overgrowth of adenoids, are now more frequently recognised by parents, and appropriate treatment is sought before the child matures for examination in the "Code" groups at school and advice is sought either at the minor ailments clinic or privately. Thus, amongst those examined in the "Code" groups at school, 40 had already had tonsils removed, and 32 had adenoids removed. Table 4 in the appendix gives a summary of the treatment of defects in children during the year 1919.

Disinfestation Station On account of the large number of children infected with scabies and the want of proper

means of dealing with persistently verminous children, the Local Education Committee determined in the beginning of the year to which this report relates, to fit up a Bathroom and a hot air chamber for the radical treatment of these cases mentioned. At the time, it was hoped that this addition to the School Medical Department would be in operation after the Whitsun Holidays, but owing to difficulties connected with obtaining skilled labour, suitable material and more especially a satisfactory hot water supply, the scheme has not yet been carried out, although it is in progress.

The need however, for such an installation is as acute as ever, particularly for cases of scabies. At the beginning of the year, 15 cases were under treatment, and this number was increased to 73 by the end of 1919, by the addition of 58 new cases. Medicated baths would also be extremely useful for the treatment of a number of skin diseases, especially impetigo, where the body and limbs are affected.

As before, the Mayor's fund has been called upon for relief in necessitous cases, and out of it, 3 children have been supplied with clothing, 8 with footwear and one with glasses. In addition, 18 poorly nourished and delicate children were supplied with one pint of milk daily at school for a period of three weeks and upwards. The milk supplied in these cases is sent to the teacher, under whose supervision it is given to the children during the play-times, morning and afternoon ; this being preferable to sending it to the house, where there is a likelihood of its being consumed by other members of the family.

Exclusions for sickness The following is a list of the causes and number of scholars excluded from attendance at school by the School Medical Officer on account of illness :—

<i>Cause of Exclusion.</i>	<i>No. of cases excluded.</i>			
Alopecia.	1
Blepharitis.	1
Chicken Pox.	5
Chilblains.	1
Chorea.	1
Conjunctivitis.	2
Corneal Ulcer.	1
Debility.	4
Discharging ears.	1
Eczema of face.	1
Eyesight. (defective)	1
Gastritis.	2
Impetigo.	26
Inflamed knee.	2
Nephritis.	1
Ringworm of scalp.	9
Scabies.	60
Scarlet fever	1
Septic Finger.	2
Septic knee.	2
Septic leg.	3
Septic sores.	1
Septic throat.	2
Sores.	5
Sore Throat.	5
Tonsillitis.	1
Tuberculosis.	2
Ulcerated mouth.	1
Venereal Disease.	5
Verminous Condition.	62
Total number of cases excluded.				211

School Closures On account of the prevalence of Measles during February, March and April, the following Infants' Schools were closed for the periods mentioned :

<i>Name of School.</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
Church of England Infants	3-4-19	24-3-19
Boyn Hill Infants	8-4-19	16-4-19
Albert Street Infants	1-2-19	24-4-19
Council Infants	7-3-19	24-3-19

The Council Infants' being also closed from the 8th December to the 19th December, that is to say, until after the Christmas holidays, on account of Chicken-pox.

The illnesses principally affecting attendance at school month by month, is shown in the following list :

January	.....Influenza.
February	.....Influenza.
March	.....Influenza and Measles.
April	.....Influenza, severe coughs and Measles.
May	.....Numbers of infants still unfit after Measles. Many having had Complications.
June	.....Scabies very prevalent.
July	.....Impetigo very prevalent.
August	.....(Schools closed for Holidays).
September	.....Impetigo and Scabies.
October	.....Very little sickness.
November	.....Very little sickness.
December	.....Colds, Coughs and many cases of Whooping Cough.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully.

James J. Paterson.

School Medical Officer.

Guildhall,
Maidenhead,
April, 1920,



APPENDIX.



SCHOOL MEDICAL STAFF.

School Medical Officer	—	J. J. Paterson, M.D., (Lond.)
Oculist	—	R. S. Charsley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Dentist	—	T. Campbell Dykes, L.D.S., (R.C.S. Eng).
Nurse	—	— Miss E. Impey, A.R. San. I.
Attendance Officer	—	Miss M. Glover.
Clerk (part time)	—	R. A. J. Walton.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

March 31st, 1919.

Number of Public Elementary Schools	—	6
„ Departments	—	14
Total number of places	—	2856
(Including 862 Boys ; 895 Girls ; 1,000 Infants ; 99 Mixed).		
Total number of Scholars on Registers	—	2243
(Including 670 Boys ; 756 Girls ; 817 Infants).		
Average Attendance	—	2019
(Including 604 Boys ; 671 Girls ; 644 Infants ; 100 Mixed).		

Borough of Maidenhead.

Table I. Number of Children Inspected.

1st January, 1919, to 31st December, 1919.

A. "Code" Groups:

Entrants.

	Under Age.—5 years	5 years	6 years	Other ages	Total
Boys ...	Nil.	152	48	11	211
Girls ...	Nil.	120	51	15	186
Totals	Nil.	272	99	26	397

Intermediate Group. Leavers.

	Age—8 years	12 years	Other Ages	Total	Grand Total
Boys ...	146	109	3	112	469
Girls ...	146	108	8	116	448
Totals	292	217	11	228	917

B. Groups other than "Code."

Special Cases.

Re-Examination
(i.e.) No. of Children
Re-Examined.

	at School	at Clinic	Total	
Boys ...	17	352	369	72
Girls ...	32	358	390	54
Totals	49	710	759	126

Borough of Maidenhead.

TABLE II. Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection in 1919.

Defects or Disease. (1)	Code Groups.		Special School cases only.	
	Number referred for treatment. (2)	Number required to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment. (3)	Number referred for treatment. (4)	Number required to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment. (5)
Malnutrition	9	83	—	—
Skin	{	Uncleanliness. Head	13	—
		Body		
		Ringworm. Scalp		
		Body		
		Scabies		
		Impetigo		
		Other Diseases		
Eye	{	Defective Vision, Squint.....	10	4
		External Eye Disease		
Ear	{	Defective Hearing.....	—	—
		Ear Disease		
Teeth	{	Dental Disease	1	—
		Enlarged Tonsils		
Nose and Throat	{	Adenoids	4	2
		Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids		
Defective Speech	{	9	—	—

Heart and Circulation	{ Heart Disease. Organic..... Functional	2	4	—	—
		—	3	—	—
	{ Anaemia	0	2	—	—
Lungs	{ Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Definite)	7	—	—	—
		10	—	—	—
		—	6	—	—
		—	3	—	—
Nervous System	{ Epilepsy	—	2	—	—
		1	—	1	—
		—	1	—	—
		—	—	—	—
		—	—	—	—
	Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis-Glands..... Bones and Joints Other Forms	1	—	—	—
		—	—	—	—
		—	—	—	—
	Rickets	—	4	—	—
	Deformities.....	—	5	—	—
	Other Diseases or Defects	5	6	3	7
Totals		303	737	34	15

Borough of Maidenhead.

Table III. Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in the area in 1919.

		Boys. Girls. Totals		
Blind (Including partially blind).	Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	1	2
	Attending Certified Schools for the Blind	—	—	—
	Not at School	2	—	2
Deaf and Dumb (Including partially deaf).	Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—
	Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	2	—	2
	Not at School	1	—	1
Mentally Deficient.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	1	2
	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	—	—	—
	Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year	—	—	—
	Not at School	1	—	1
	Imbeciles.	—	—	—
	At School	—	1	1
	Not at School	—	—	—
Epileptics	Idiots.	—	1	1
	Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—
	Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics	1	—	1
	Not at School	—	—	—

Table III. (continued).

			Boys.	Girls.	Totals
Physically Defective.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	4	7	11
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	—	—	—
		Not at School	2	1	3
	Other forms of Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	5	3	8
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	—	—	—
		Not at School	2	—	2
	Cripples other than Tuberculous.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	2	4	6
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	—	—	—
		Not at School	—	—	—
	†Dull or Backward	Retarded 2 years	11	13	24
		Retarded 3 years	—	1	1
Totals			35	33	68

+ Judged according to age and Standard.

† Judged according to age and Standard.



Borough of Maidenhead.

Table IV. Treatment of Defects of Children during 1919.

Condition.	Number of Defects found for which treatment was considered necessary.			Number of Defects for which no report is available.	Number of Defects treated.	Results of Treatment.			Number of Defects not treated.	Percentage of Defects treated.
	From previous year.	New.	Total.			Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.		
Clothing	—	5	5	—	3	—	3	—	2	60%
Footwear	2	10	12	—	8	8	—	—	4	67%
Cleanliness of Head	2	55	57	—	57	56	1	—	—	100%
" Body	5	8	13	—	13	3	7	3	—	100%
Nutrition	1	13	14	—	14	12	2	—	—	100%
Nose and throat	2	45	47	6	35	25	10	—	6	74%
External eye disease	6	14	20	—	20	11	9	—	—	100%
Ear disease	7	8	15	—	15	8	2	5	—	100%
Teeth	4	123	127	5	113	113	—	—	9	81%
Heart and circulation	—	3	3	—	3	—	—	3	—	100%
Lungs	3	7	10	—	10	1	9	—	—	100%
Nervous system	1	3	4	—	4	—	2	2	—	100%
Skin	32	212	244	—	244	212	26	6	—	100%
Rickets	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	Nil
Deformities	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	Nil
Tuberculosis non-pulmonary	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	100%
Speech	3	6	9	—	9	—	7	2	—	100%
Mental condition	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	Nil
Vision and squint	2	59	61	1	53	45	8	—	7	87%
Hearing	—	4	4	—	4	—	2	2	—	100%
Injuries	1	37	38	—	38	38	—	—	—	100%
Infectious Diseases	—	10	10	—	10	10	—	—	—	100%
Miscellaneous	—	14	14	—	14	12	2	—	—	100%
Totals	74	643	717	12	668	554	91	23	37	93%

Borough of Maidenhead.

Table V. Inspection, Treatment, Etc., of
Children during 1919.

1.	The total number of children medically inspected (whether Code Group, special or ailing child).	1092
2.	The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footwear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment).	489
3.	The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment, excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.	324
4.	The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	302

